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Tunisia

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Corn and Soybean Meal Import Requirements

Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

Oilseeds and Products

FAIRS Subject Report

SP2 - Prevent or Resolve Barriers to Trade that Hinder

U.S. Food and Agricultural Exports

Approved By:

Morgan Haas

Prepared By:

FAS/Tunis

Report Highlights:

This report contains an unofficial translation of Tunisia's import requirements for corn and soybean meal.

General Information: This report contains an unofficial translation of Tunisia's import requirements for corn and soybean meal, as previously established in 1997.

Order of the Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, and Trade of January 11, 1997, approving the Book of Specifications governing the import of corn grain and soybean meal.

The Ministers of Finances, Agriculture, and Trade,

Having regard to Decree of October 10, 1919, on the repression of fraud in trade in goods and falsifications of adulteration of food or agricultural or natural products,

Having regard to [Law n ° 78-23 of March 8, 1978](#), organizing the pharmacy veterinary,

Having regard to [Law n ° 91-44 of July 1, 1991](#), on the organization of distributive trade as amended and supplemented by [Law n ° 94-38 of February 24, 1994](#),

Having regard to [Law n ° 91-64 of July 29, 1991](#), relating to the competition and prices as amended and supplemented by [Law n ° 95-42 of April 24, 1995](#),

Having regard to [Law n ° 92-72 of August 3, 1992](#), on the recasting of legislation relating to plant protection,

Having regard to [Law n ° 92-117 of December 7, 1992](#), on the consumer protection,

Having regard to [Law n ° 94-41 of March 7, 1994](#), relating to the foreign trade,

Having regard to [Decree n ° 94-1744 of August 29, 1994](#), regulating the modalities of technical control of the import and the export, and bodies authorized to exercise it,

Having regard to the Decree of the Ministers of National Economy, Agriculture and Public Health of July 20, 1981, relating to the production and marketing of animal feed,

Having regard to the [Order of the Minister of Agriculture of August 18, 1992](#), laying down the list of quarantine pests,

Having regard to the [Order of the Minister of Agriculture of September 15, 1992](#), laying down the phytosanitary requirements and the procedures for control of plants and plant products imported into Tunisia,

Having regard to [Order of the Minister of the National Economy of August 30, 1994](#), regulating the list of products subject to technical control at import and export as supplemented by the [Order of March 28, 1996](#),

Having regard to [Order of the Ministers of Public Health, Agriculture and Trade of January 4, 1996](#), establishing the list and the production conditions, marketing and incorporation of additives used for animal feed.

Order:

Article 1: The Book of Specifications annexed to the present order are approved governing the import of grain corn under the tariff number: 100590.0 and of soybean meal under the tariff number: 230400.0

Article 2: A commission charged with the monitoring and control of the conformity of the import of grain corn to the Book of Specifications annexed to the present order is created.

The composition of this commission is fixed as follows:

- The Minister of Agriculture or his representative: Chairman,
- A representative of the Ministry of Finance; Member,
- A representative of the Directorate-General of Plant Production within the Ministry of Agriculture: Member,
- A representative of the Directorate-General of Animal Production within the Ministry of Agriculture: Member,
- A representative of the Directorate-General of Development Planning and Agricultural Investments: Member,
- A representative of the Directorate-General of Competition and Internal Trade within the Ministry of Trade: Member,
- A representative of the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade within the Ministry of Trade: Member,
- A representative of the Central Bank of Tunisia: Member,
- A representative of the Tunisian Union of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts: member,
- A representative of the Tunisian Union of Agriculture and Fisheries: member
- A representative of the Office of the Cereals: member,
- A representative of the Interprofessional Group of poultry products: member.

The Chairman of the commission may call on any person whose opinion and competence are considered useful for the work of the commission.

The secretariat of the commission is provided by the Directorate-General for Planning, Development and Agricultural Investments within the Ministry of Agriculture.

Article 3: The members of the Commission are appointed by decision of the Minister of Agriculture following a proposal of the parties concerned.

Article 4: The commission is responsible for:

- Designating a technical committee for the approval of storage premises, in accordance with the requirements of the Book of Specifications,
- Registering the list of grain corn and soybean meal importers with storage locations approved for this purpose,
- Ensuring the monitoring of realization in the area of corn grain and soybean meal imports,
- Controlling the stocks of grain corn and soybean meal held by the operators as provided in the Book of Specifications governing the import of these products,
- Ensuring the monitoring of the evolution of prices of these two materials in the internal and external markets,
- Taking all measures to ensure the country's regular supply of these products.

Article 5: The commission of monitoring of grain corn and soybean meal imports will hold its meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, and whenever necessary by summons of its chairman. It deliberates in the presence of 2/3 of its members at least.

If a quorum is not reached at the first meeting, the commission members shall be convened for a second meeting one week after the first meeting. In this case, it must deliberate regardless of the number of members present.

The commission shall deliver its opinion expressing that of the majority of the members present. In the event of a tie vote, the chairman shall cast a vote.

A verbatim record will sanction each meeting.

Article 6: The infringements of the provisions laid down in the specifications referred to in Article 1 of this order, shall be punished in accordance with the legislation in force. The commission can also decide the cancellation of the name of the concerned operator from the list of importers.

Tunis, January 11, 1997.

Minister of Finance: **Nouri Zorgati**

Minister of Agriculture: **M'Hamed Ben Rejeb**

Minister of Trade: **Mondher Zenaïdi**

Viewed,

Prime Minister: **Hamed Karoui**

Book of Specifications Governing the Import of Grain Corn:

Article 1: This specification defines the conditions in which corn intended for animal feed is imported. The importation of corn can only be carried out by natural or legal persons included in the list of importers and meeting the conditions of this Book of Specifications.

Article 2: The importer of corn must have storage locations approved by a technical committee designated by the monitoring commission of corn and soybean meal imports, created by joint order of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Trade.

These locations must be suitable for the storage of the imported corn.

They can be:

- Silos composed of metal or concrete cells,
- Enclosed storages,
- Sheds or other covered structures.

They must be accessible for control and meet the standards of hygiene and safety required for the conservation of the grain corn.

The storage cells must be equipped with integrated equipment:

- Handling: receipt, shipping, inter-cell transfer,
- Monitoring: taking samples, temperature, moisture, storage level,
- Conservation: ventilation systems, treatment ...

The enclosed storages must have a cemented floor and a ventilation system to ensure good conservation and a safety system that meets the requirements of civil protection.

For the other covered structures, the floor must be cemented and at least 20 cm higher than the finished natural ground and must be provided with rain protection siding.

The importer must also have means of unloading and suitable transport.

Article 3: On the last day of each month, the importer is required to report to the monitoring commission its import program, realization, consumption, sales, stock levels and import purchase prices CIF and its selling prices on the local market.

Article 4: All operators must have a storage capacity of at least one-sixth ($1/6^{\text{th}}$) of their annual import program and must have rolling stocks at all times.

Failure to comply with the above provisions may result in the cancellation of the operator's name from the list of importers.

Article 5: The grain corn to be imported must meet the provisions of the phytosanitary regulation in force, the [Order of the Ministry of Agriculture of September 15, 1992](#), setting the phytosanitary requirements and the control procedures of plants and plant products imported into Tunisia.

Article 6: The grain corn to be imported must be wholesome and of honest and marketable quality, free from any smell, toxic substances such as aflatoxins and ochratoxins, foreign bodies and live predators in all their stages of development.

The levels of toxic substances must not exceed the tolerated thresholds by the Tunisian regulations in force, in particular the Order of the Ministers of Agriculture, National Economy and Public Health of July 20, 1981, relating to the production and marketing of animal feed.

The radioactive contamination of 134 and 137 cesium must not exceed 370 bq / kg.

Any excess of the contamination threshold set even for lots used as a basis for sampling leads to a refusal of all the cargo.

The grain corn to be imported must come from a recent harvest not exceeding 12 months on the date of shipment.

Article 7: Corn grain must meet the following characteristics:

a) Physical characteristics:

- Specific weight (min) 67 Kg / hl
- Broken grain (max) 5%
- Sprouted grain (max.) 1%
- Heated grain (max) 1%
- Impurities constituted by grain (max) 2%
- Various impurities (max) 2%

b) Physicochemical characteristics (in % of the gross product):

- Moisture (max) 14%
- Metabolizable energy for poultry (min) 3300 Kcal / Kg
- Crude protein (min) 9%
- Mineral substances (max) 1.4%
- Crude fiber (max) 2.5%

Article 8: Corn grain can be delivered in bulk or in closed packages meeting international transport standards.

In addition to the bill of lading documents, the supplier must present a certificate stating the following information:

- The name of the product,
- Country of origin,
- The name of the supplier and his address,
- The name of the recipient and his address,
- The net weight per package,
- The physicochemical characteristics of the corn grain to be imported as stipulated in Article 7 of the present Book of Specifications.
- The harvest year.

Article 9: Each grain corn delivery must be accompanied with the following documents written in languages Arabic, French or English, drawn up by the official services of the country of origin:

- A certificate of origin
- A physicochemical analysis certificate mentioning the indications given in Article 7 of the present Book of Specifications, drawn up by an official laboratory no earlier than 14 days before the date of dispatch,
- A certificate of non-radioactive contamination
- A phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin of the international model established no earlier than 14 days before the date of shipment, attesting that the corn grain has been, before its shipping, officially examined and found free of quarantine pests provided for by the [Order of the Minister of Agriculture of 18 August 1992](#), laying down the list of organizations of quarantine in the case where the country exporter is not the producer, a re-export certificate accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin is required,
- A certificate attesting that the imported corn grain is marketable in the exporting country.

Article 10: The conformity of imported grain corn with the specific conditions of the present Book of Specifications shall be checked by the relevant technical services of the Directorate-General for Plant Production and the Directorate-General for Animal Production under the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of [Decree No. 94-1744 of 29 August 1994](#), relating to the modalities of technical control for the import and export and the bodies authorized to exercise it.

Article 11: Before any operation of domiciling import certificates for the importation of grain corn, the importer must submit to the authorized intermediary a copy of the Book of Specifications duly signed by the operator and the services of the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade and bearing the stamp and the registration number issued by the said services as well as an updated list of importers, no older than one month and within which appears the name of the concerned operator.

Before submitting the customs declaration, the importer must submit to the customs authorities a copy of the Book of Specifications provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article and an updated list of importers, no older than one month and within which appears the name of the concerned operator.

Article 12: Any failure to comply with the provisions of the present Book of Specifications will be sanctioned in accordance with the legislation in force.

The Book of Specifications Governing the Import of Soybean Meal:

Article 1: This Book of Specifications defines the conditions in which soybean meal for animal feed is imported.

Importation of soybean meal can only be carried out by the natural or legal persons included in the list of importers and meeting the conditions of these specifications.

Article 2: The importer of soybean meal must have approved storage premises by a technical committee designated by the monitoring commission of corn and soybean meal imports, created by a joint order of the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Trade.

These premises must be suitable for the storage of the imported soybean meal.

They can be:

- Enclosed storage,
- Sheds,
- Covered structures.

They must also be accessible to control and meet the standards of hygiene and safety required for the conservation of soybean meal.

They must be equipped with means of control (taking of samples, temperature, and humidity), handling (reception, weighing etc...), conservation (ventilation system), security, responding to the requirements of the services of the civil protection.

They must also have a cemented floor.

For sheds and other structures covered, the floor must be at least 20 cm higher than the finished natural terrain and must be provided with rain protection siding.

The importer must also have means of unloading and suitable transport.

Article 3: The importer is required to report, on the last day of each month to the monitoring commission, its import program, achievements, consumption, sales, stock levels and import purchase prices CAF and its selling prices on the local market.

Article 4: All operators must have a storage capacity of at least one-sixth ($1/6^{\text{th}}$) of their annual import program and must have a rolling stock at all times.

Failure to comply with the above provisions may result in the cancellation of the operator's name from the list of importers.

Article 5: The soybean meal to be imported must be wholesome, of honest and marketable quality, free from any smell, toxic substances such as aflatoxins and ochratoxins, foreign bodies and live predators in all their stages of development.

The levels of toxic substances must not exceed the thresholds tolerated by the Tunisian regulations in force, in particular the Order of the Ministers of Agriculture, National Economy and Public Health of July 20, 1981, relating to the production and marketing of animal feed.

The radioactive contamination in caesium 134 and 137 shall not exceed 370 Bq/kg.

Any excess of the contamination threshold set even for batches used as a sampling frame leads to a refusal of all the cargo.

Soybean meal must be newly manufactured, not exceeding 6 months on the date of shipment. They can be delivered in flour state or in the form of pellets.

Article 6: The soybean meal to be imported must meet the following characteristics:

- a) Physicochemical characteristics (in % of the gross product)
 - 1) Soybean meal 44
 - Moisture (max) 12%
 - Crude protein (min) 42%
 - Crude fiber (max) 7.5%
 - Mineral substances (max) 6%
 - Fat (max) 2%
 - 2) Soybean meal 48
 - Moisture (max) 12%
 - Crude protein (mini) 46%
 - Crude fiber (max) 5%
 - Mineral substances (max) 6.3%
 - Fat (max) 2%
 - 3) Soybean meal 50
 - Moisture (max) 12%
 - Crude protein (mini) 48%
 - Crude fiber (max) 3.5%
 - Mineral substances (max) 6.2%
 - Fat (max) 2%
- b) Urease activity: 0.2 mg N EEC method.

Article 7: Soybean meal can be delivered in bulk or in closed packages meeting international transport standards.

In addition to the bill of lading documents, the supplier must present a certificate stating the following information:

- The name of the product,
- Country of origin,
- The name of the supplier and his address,
- The name of the recipient and his address,
- The net weight per package,
- The physicochemical characteristics of the soybean meal to be imported as stipulated in Article 6 of the present Book of Specifications,

- Date of production
- The nature and content of the Additives optionally added which must be consistent with the Tunisian regulation in force, [Order of the Ministers of Agriculture, Public Health of January 4, 1996](#), laying down the list and the conditions of production, marketing and the incorporation of additives for use in animal feed).

Article 8: Each soybean meal delivery must be accompanied with the following documents written in languages Arabic, French or English, drawn up by the official services of the country of origin:

- A certificate of origin
- A physicochemical analysis certificate mentioning the indications given in Article 6 of these specifications, drawn up by an official laboratory no earlier than 14 days before the date of dispatch,
- A certificate of non-radioactive contamination,
- A certificate attesting that the imported soybean meal is marketable in the exporting country.

Article 9: The conformity of imported soybean meal with the specific conditions of these specifications shall be checked by the relevant technical services of the Directorate-General for Plant Production and the Directorate-General for Animal Production under the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of [Decree No. 94-1744 of 29 August 1994](#), relating to the modalities of technical control for the import and export and the bodies authorized to exercise it.

Article 10: Before any operation of domiciling import certificates for the importation of soybean meal, the importer must submit to the authorized intermediary a copy of the Book of Specifications duly signed by the operator and the services of the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade and bearing the stamp and the registration number issued by the said services as well as an updated list of importers, no older than one month and within which appears the name of the concerned operator.

Before submitting the customs declaration, the importer must submit to the customs authorities a copy of the specifications provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article and an updated list of importers, no older than one month and within which appears the name of the concerned operator.

Article 11: Any failure to comply with the provisions of the present Book of Specifications will be sanctioned in accordance with the legislation in force.